AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please cancel claims 2-5 and add claims 15-18 as shown in the following Listing

of Claims.

Listing of Claims   BEST AVAILABLE COPY

Claims 6-14 (canceled)

15. (new) A multi-user virtual tape system comprising:

at least one server;

a plurality of application programs residing on the at least one server;

a plurality of host bus initiators associated with the application programs;

a random access storage device;

a virtual tape controller providing communications between the at least one
server and the random access storage device and allowing the application programs
access to the random access storage device as a sequential access tape storage
device;

a virtual tape volume configured on the random access storage device for tape
formatted data;

a write-enabled one of the host bus initiators designated to perform a record of
tape formatted data to the virtual tape volume; and

a write-protected at least one of the host bus initiators designated to perform a
playback of tape formatted data from the virtual tape volume,

wherein the virtual tape controller allows the playback to operate during the
record.

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16. (new) The multi-user virtual tape system according to claim 15 further comprising:

at least one virtual tape drive defined by the virtual tape controller and operated by at least one of the host bus initiators,

wherein the virtual tape volume is mounted in the at least one virtual tape drive, and

wherein each of the host bus initiators has independent access to the virtual tape volume.

17. (new) The multi-user virtual tape system according to claim 16 further comprising:

a first one of the host bus initiators having performed a write operation after the virtual tape volume is initially mounted in the at least one virtual tape drive,

wherein the virtual tape controller designates the first one of the host bus initiators as the write-enabled one of the host bus initiators.

18. (new) The multi-user virtual tape system according to claim 17 wherein at least one the host bus initiators is able to perform one of a load operation and an unload operation on the virtual tape volume independent of others of the host bus initiators.

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